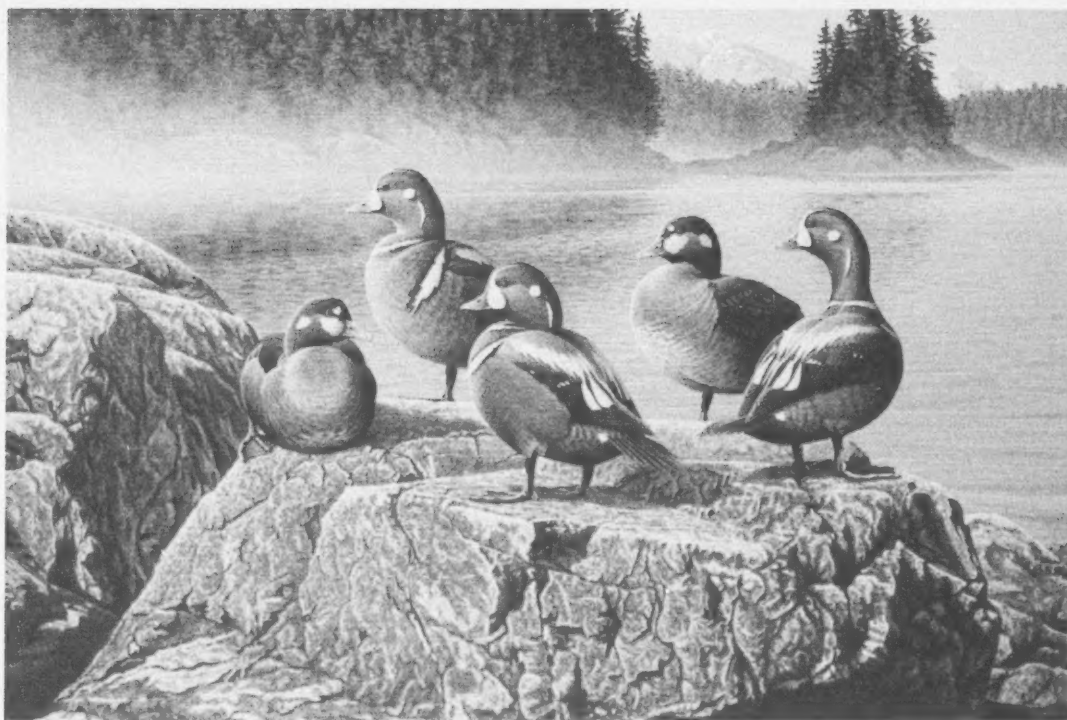


Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada

July 2006

Canadian Wildlife Service
Waterfowl Committee

CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Number 18



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For more information on wildlife and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), please visit the following Web sites:

National CWS Web site: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca

Regional CWS Web sites:

Atlantic Region: www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html

Quebec Region: www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/faune.html

Ontario Region: www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/intro.html

Other regions on Environment Canada's nature sites:

Prairie and Northern Region: www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/index.en.html

Pacific and Yukon Region: www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/nature/nature_eIndex.htm

HELPFUL TIP:

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when bird-watching, hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure.

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html> (English)

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index_f.html (French)

Cover Art:

The 2005 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp entitled "Wintering West – Harlequin Ducks" is by Canadian wildlife artist W. Allan Hancock of British Columbia.

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CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Number 18

Editor:

This report was prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, and edited by Kathryn M. Dickson (CWS, National Office).

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Comments:

Comments regarding this report, the regulation-setting process or other items relating to national migratory game bird concerns should be sent to: Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3.

Region-specific comments should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Service, at the following addresses:

Atlantic Region: 17 Waterfowl Lane, P.O. Box 6227, Sackville, NB, E4L 1G6

Quebec Region: 1141 route de l'Église, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, QC, G1V 4H5

Ontario Region: 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, ON, M3H 5T4.

Prairie & Northern Region: Twin Atria No.2, 4999-98 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T6B 2X3

Pacific & Yukon Region: 5421 Robertson Road, R.R. #1, Delta, BC, V4K 3N2

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http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/birds/status/index_e.cfm

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Background

Canadian hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories and a range of other interested stakeholders. As part of this process, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) produces three reports each year. The November report *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada* contains population and other biological information on migratory game birds, and thus provides the scientific basis for management. The December report *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations* outlines the proposed changes to the annual hunting regulations, as well as other proposed amendments to the *Migratory Birds Regulations*. Proposals for hunting regulations are developed in accordance with the *Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting* (Appendix B). These two reports are distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory game bird conservation, to provide an opportunity for input to the development of hunting regulations in this country. The third report, *Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada*, issued in July, summarizes the hunting regulations for the upcoming hunting season.

The process for development of regulations in Canada requires that any changes be in the form of final proposals by early March of each year. That means that regulations must be set without the benefit of knowledge about the breeding conditions and production forecasts of the coming year. This does not usually present difficulties because the hunting regulations are based on trends over several years, but in some cases the results from recent harvest surveys or breeding population surveys conducted in May and June will indicate that changes in the national approach are needed to ensure conservation of migratory game birds. **In this case, the Canadian Wildlife Service will issue a bulletin updating these regulations.**

Annual Schedule for the Development of Hunting Regulations

The annual schedule is based on the requirement to have the annual hunting regulations made into law by early June each year:

- Early November – The November report, containing biological information, is distributed by CWS-National Office (N.O.).

- November and December – Jurisdictions develop proposals for hunting regulations in coordination with CWS Regional Directors.
- December 13 – CWS Regions provide to CWS-N.O. the proposed changes to hunting regulations (with justifications) for the upcoming year, as well as any other information that should be included in the December report, including advance notice on items for future years. Descriptions of zone changes are sent by CWS Regions to the Surveyor General for review, approval and translation.
- Early January – CWS-N.O. distributes the December report containing the regulation proposals, to allow for public, inter-regional and international consultation.
- February 21 – Replies from consultation are due at CWS Regional Directors' offices, who then ensure distribution to the provinces and territories.
- Mid-January through mid-February – CWS Regions work with the provinces and territories to finalize the regulation proposals.
- March 10 – Final proposals, as well as the final text of the regulations and regulation summaries, are sent by CWS Regional Directors to CWS-N.O.
- April through May – CWS-N.O. undertakes the process to prepare legal documents and obtain approvals of the regulatory proposals.
- Early June – Final hunting regulations, adjusted if necessary to account for public comment, become law.
- July 15 – Hunting regulation summaries are available at Canada Post Outlets.
- End of July – CWS-N.O. finalizes the July report containing the final proposals for hunting regulations and the hunting regulation summaries.
- End of August – Regulation consolidations are available to CWS Regions.

Note to United States Readers

The annual cycle of regulation development in Canada is earlier than that in the United States. To meet the requirements of the Canadian regulatory process, proposals for hunting regulations must be finalized no later than early March each year. Canadian representatives at the summer Flyway Council meetings and other hearings are not reporting on what is being considered, but on what has been passed into law.

2006 BREEDING POPULATION SURVEYS - Preliminary Information

Information from field programs undertaken in the spring of 2006 is provided for areas from which new data were available at the time of writing. It should be considered to be preliminary. The results of these, and other, 2006 breeding population surveys will be described in detail and compared to historical data sets in the November 2006 report, Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada.

DUCKS

British Columbia (*Breault and Watts, pers. comm.*)

The Cooperative Wetland Survey is an inter-agency project initiated in 1987 that aims to characterize abundance of breeding and migrating waterfowl in the wetlands of Interior British Columbia. The survey involves six replicated counts of waterbirds on each of approximately 400 wetlands located on private property, native, provincial and federal lands. Approximately 290 of these wetlands have been monitored consistently since 1988. For analytical purposes, those wetlands are referred to as "Trend Wetlands", as they allow long-term comparisons of waterfowl abundance over a fixed amount of habitat.

Snowpack conditions varied by regions during the winter of 2005/2006, with good snowpacks in the Southern and Southeast Interior but below average snowpacks for the Central Interior. Water levels of low elevation wetlands were higher than in 2005 but well below the 1996-2005 average. Breeding habitat conditions were marginally better than in May 2005 but remained overall poor, particularly for marsh-nesting ducks.

The total number of ducks observed on Trend Wetlands in 2006 was 40% higher than in 2005 (also a drought year), and 18% above the (1988-2005) Long-Term Average (LTA). Total diving ducks were 36% higher than in 2005 and 24% above the LTA. Total dabbling ducks were 51% higher than in 2005 and 8% above the LTA. Canada Goose total numbers were 4% higher than in 2005 and 90% below the LTA. This year's counts are believed to reflect both a dry spring and a marginal improvement in wetland conditions over 2005 in Central BC. This survey targets a fixed number of permanent and seasonal wetlands and the results are not adjusted with an annual index of pond availability.

A separate large-scale helicopter survey of breeding waterfowl was undertaken in the BC Interior in May 2006 and preliminary results suggest that the Intermountain portion of the Central Interior support ~ 500,000 waterfowl.

Prairie Canada (*Caswell and Schuster, unpubl. rep., 2006*)

The prairie, parkland and boreal regions of western Canada are surveyed annually in May as part of the cooperative USFWS-CWS Waterfowl Population and Habitat Survey. The survey area covers most of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and parts of the NWT (Strata 13-18; 20-40; 75-77). Number of ponds in this survey area increased 13% from 2005 to 4.45 million ponds, which is 29% above the long-term average. Pond counts were 3% lower in Manitoba, but increased by 13% in Saskatchewan, and 33% in Alberta compared to 2005. Precipitation from April 1 to June 20 was average to above average in Alberta and Saskatchewan, but below average in Manitoba.

Total ducks increased by 19% from 2005 in prairie Canada, to a level very near the long-term average. Most increases occurred in the southern prairies, while northern areas were similar to last year. Mallards increased 12% from last year, but overall were still 23% below the long-term average. Pintails increased 38% from 2005 to about 1.824 million, but were still 26% below the long-term average. Scaup were down 3% from last year, a record low, continuing their downward trend, and 45% below the long-term average. Canvasbacks were up 47% from 2005, and were 35% above the long-term average.

Eastern Canada (*Gilliland, Bordage, Ross pers. comm.*)

In eastern Canada, breeding waterfowl populations are monitored annually through the Eastern Waterfowl Breeding Ground Survey (hereafter Eastern Waterfowl Survey). The Canadian Wildlife Service carries out a systematic helicopter survey over the Boreal Shield region from north-eastern Ontario to Newfoundland, and the Atlantic Highlands region from the Gaspé Peninsula (Québec) to Nova Scotia (Figure 1). The US Fish and Wildlife Service conducts a fixed-wing aerial survey in parts of eastern Canada and the north-eastern US. This work has been conducted since 1990, as part of the Black Duck Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). The surveys are designed and timed primarily to provide reliable breeding population

estimates and trends for the American Black Duck, an early-nesting species.

Historically, the data from these surveys have been analysed separately, despite some overlap in geographic coverage. In 2004, CWS and the USFWS agreed to integrate the two surveys, produce composite estimates, reduce the extent of overlap and expand the geographic region covered. The data presented in the November 2006 Report on the Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada will present an integration of results from the two survey platforms. In the meantime, this report presents initial impressions from the Canadian helicopter survey crew leaders.

Gilliland pers. comm. - Spring conditions were two to three weeks earlier than normal in Newfoundland and Labrador. As in 2005, it was warm and dry, and the breeding season appeared unusually early. For the second year in a row, ice melt was early and almost no ice was encountered in Newfoundland or Labrador. Black Duck numbers showed promising increases throughout the mid-1990s, however their numbers have declined since 2000. This year, the helicopter survey component in Newfoundland and Labrador show a positive increase in breeding numbers of Black Ducks. The numbers of Ring-neck Ducks have increased since 2003 and are currently at their highest recorded levels. Finally, the numbers of American Green-wing Teal declined in 2003 and remained low in 2006.

Bordage pers. comm. - In Québec, last summer (2005) was warm and dry resulting in good waterfowl production. Fall weather was normal, and winter precipitation and temperature were average. Spring 2006 was also warm and dry, especially in the boreal forest. Temperatures were above average resulting in nest initiation apparently one or two weeks earlier than usual. Overall the 2006 boreal forest survey conditions were good. The survey was undertaken between April 28th and May 31st. The total number of waterfowl breeding pairs observed this year in the boreal forest was similar to 2005. However, the number of American Black Ducks—the most abundant species—increased by 24% in the helicopter component of the survey this year, in comparison to last year.

Ross pers. comm. - Spring arrived early again in southern, central and particularly northeastern Ontario. Temperatures were above-normal in April and continued so in May, leading to highly advanced habitat phenology throughout the survey area. This did not seem to affect the breeding phenology of most waterfowl with the possible exceptions of the large dabblers (American Black Ducks and Mallards) which, given the higher proportion of flocked males, appeared to have started nesting earlier than usual, this being more evident in the northern part of the survey area. Overall numbers of ducks were within

the normal range of values but may have continued a slight decline noted in recent years. Water levels appeared slightly higher than normal in central Ontario, likely reflecting substantial winter snow. Conditions were generally good during nest initiation and brood rearing. More recently, brood surveys suggest strong breeding efforts by all species.

GEESE

Geese and Swans in the western Canadian Arctic (Hines, pers. comm.)

Lesser Snow Geese (Western Arctic Population)

More than 95% of Snow Geese in the western Canadian Arctic nest at Banks Island. The number of Snow Geese nesting on Banks Island increased from about 100 000 birds in 1960 to over half a million birds in 2002.

The remaining western arctic Snow Geese nest at small colonies on the mainland at the Anderson River and Kendall Island Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. The mainland populations have varied in size from year to year (Kendall Island) or declined (Anderson River) during the last decade. An aerial survey of the two mainland nesting areas (and more detailed ground counts at Anderson River) in June 2006 suggested that the nesting effort at both the Kendall Island and Anderson River Bird Sanctuaries was good compared to many years in the late 1990s and early 2000s. On Banks Island, local Inuvialuit residents reported that spring snow melt occurred earlier than usual and that snow geese were a week earlier than usual in nesting. Therefore, it is expected that production will be average or above average on Banks Island this year.

Greater White-fronted Geese (Mid-continent Population)

In the Western Arctic, White-fronted Geese nest mainly on the mainland. During aerial surveys in the Mackenzie Delta, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Liverpool Bay, and Parry Peninsula area in June 2006, evidence pointed toward a modest nesting effort for White-fronted Geese. Additionally, field crews working near Anderson River (Joachim Obst, pers. comm.) and in the Mackenzie Delta (Vicky Johnston, pers. comm.) reported relatively low numbers of buffer prey (small mammals) which are an alternate food source for potential nest predators. Therefore, it is expected that production of white-fronted geese should be below-average in 2006.

Canada Geese and Cackling Geese (Short-grass Prairie Population)

Canada Geese and Cackling Geese are far less abundant on the Western Arctic mainland than are White-fronted Geese. Nevertheless, productivity of Canada Geese appears to have paralleled that of white-fronts in this area in the past, and a moderate nesting effort with below average production is expected for 2006. Victoria Island, where many of SGPP Cackling Geese in the Western Arctic breed, experienced a relatively early spring and it is possible that reproductive success should be better there than on the mainland.

Tundra Swans (Eastern Population)

The Mackenzie Delta Region and nearby parts of the Western Arctic mainland are one of the most important breeding areas for Tundra Swans in North America. Surveys carried out in this region in 2006 indicated good numbers of nesting swans and a relatively early nesting season. Thus, about average production should be expected this year.

Black Brant

The mainland of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region is one of the most important nesting areas for Pacific Flyway brant in the Canadian Arctic and more than 6000 adult Brant were present on the mainland in 1995-98 (Wiebe and Hines 2006).

Since the 1970s, the Black Brant population on the mainland of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region has apparently increased in some areas but declined by 90% or more at Anderson River Bird Sanctuary which was once the most important nesting area for Black Brant in Canada. Up to 2500 nesting brant occurred at Anderson River in the 1970s but numbers declined to 100-200 nesting birds in 2005-06 (Hines, unpublished data). Apparently, in recent years, Brant nests at Anderson River have been heavily attacked by predators, especially barren-ground grizzly bears. As well, there is evidence that habitat quality and quantity has been reduced at Anderson River, possibly because of saltwater inundation of the outer delta during a storm surge (Armstrong 1998).

Investigations currently being carried out by CWS are evaluating habitat loss and grizzly bear predation as possible causes of long term numerical declines of Black Brant and Snow Geese at Anderson River.

Wrangel Island Lesser Snow Geese (Baranyuk, pers. comm.)

The colony of Lesser Snow Geese on Wrangel Island, Russia, is monitored by Russian biologists who have documented a decline from 120 000 nesting birds in 1970 to fewer than half that number in the 1990s (Kerbes, 1999). This population is of great interest to Canada because all of these birds migrate through western Canada in fall and spring and more than half the population winters in the Fraser Delta (BC) and the nearby Skagit Delta (WA). V. Baranyuk reported a good year in 2005 for Wrangel Island Snow Geese. The main colony had approximately 40,000 nests (about 30% more than last year) and nest success is expected to be higher than last year. This represents an unprecedented run of good breeding years on Wrangel Island.

Pacific Canada Geese (Breault, pers. comm.)

Pacific Canada Geese are surveyed as part of the ground surveys of waterfowl in the BC Interior described in the "Duck" section of this report. For the ground counts, the total number of PCG observed on Trend Wetlands in 2006 was 4% higher than in 2005 and 90% below the 1988-2005 LTA.

Geese in the central Canadian Arctic (Drake, Raven, pers. comm.)

General impressions on nesting conditions in the central Canadian arctic are that it appears to be an early year, perhaps by 2 -3 weeks. The snow cover in the Karrak Lake region was less than 5 percent on 12 June (in comparison, it was greater than 75 percent on 15 June 2003). If weather remains favorable during brood rearing, age ratios in the fall flight of Ross's Geese, Snow Geese, White-fronted Geese and Short Grass Prairie Canada Geese/Cackling Geese from Queen Maud Gulf should be above average in 2006.

The extent of the largest known nesting colonies of Ross's Geese and Snow Geese in the Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary continues to expand. Extensive helicopter reconnaissance in the sanctuary has resulted in detection of several new colonies in the sanctuary - mostly along the coast of Queen Maud Gulf - and disappearance of several small colonies up to 100 km inland. Thus there seems to have been an amalgamation of nesting light geese from many very small colonies into fewer, but much larger colonies. As well, helicopter surveys of Adelaide Peninsula and King William Island led to detection of previously unmapped or undocumented colonies of light geese. Some of

these were substantial in size, and approached or exceeded 20 km in length (notably on the northwest portion of Adelaide Peninsula, on the northwest coast of King William Island near Erebus Bay, and east of the Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary at Elliot Bay in Chantry Inlet. All in all, it appears that populations of light geese in the Central arctic continue to grow despite continental management efforts through increased hunting opportunities to control growth of the mid-continent population of Snow Geese.

Surveys in the Bathurst Inlet area of Nunavut while targeting Common Eiders it was observed that both Canada and White-fronted Geese were responding well to the early spring conditions. Production for 2006 in this area will be good for both species.

Greater Snow Goose (*Lefebvre, Gauthier pers. comm.*)

The photographic inventory of the Greater Snow Goose population was carried out during their spring stopover in southern Quebec on April 30 last using five aircraft under optimal weather conditions – i.e. a warm, sunny day. Based on the preliminary results of the spring 2006 inventory, the photographed population was estimated at about 1,017,000 \pm 79,000 geese, which is an increase over last year but a relatively stable level since 1999, the year in which special conservation measures were implemented.

On Bylot Island, where a field team is conducting an exhaustive study of Greater Snow Goose reproduction, their reproduction rate was lower this year than last. That seems to be mainly due to a late snowmelt in certain sections of the main colony. Nevertheless, the median first egg laying date was close to the long-term average, while clutch size was higher than the long-term average. Nest predation was higher than last year but not as high as might be expected in a year with few lemmings. During the hatching period, the weather was exceptionally good. Given progress in reproduction so far, the production of young should be under the long-term average but comparable to last year.

Breeding Conditions for geese in West Hudson Bay, McConnell River region, Nunavut (*J. Caswell, pers. comm.*)

The Canadian Wildlife Service did not have researchers in the McConnell River migratory bird sanctuary light goose colony (MCR) during spring goose arrival, egg laying, or during nest hatch in 2006. However, estimates obtained during mid-late incubation revealed a slight decline in light goose

nest density. Preliminary data indicates that despite an 11% increase in colony size in 2006 (23 km²), nest density appeared to decline approximately 7%, with the 2006 MCR light goose breeding population preliminary estimate at 85,563 (C.L. = 70,610–103,592). However, average clutch size (unadjusted for egg attrition prior to visiting plots) was again high at 3.28 (C.L. = 3.20–3.36), and predator activity, as well as local egg gathering appeared mild. Based on egg development during mid-incubation, it is estimated that light geese hatched around 27–29 June in 2006. It is believed that this is an early to normal hatch date, providing sufficient time for young to adequately develop before fall migration.

Southern James Bay Canada Geese (*Walton and Hughes, 2006a and Brook, Abraham and Walton, 2006*)

The 2006 surveys on the mainland were flown from 15–17 May under excellent weather conditions. Spring arrived very early in northern Ontario, several weeks ahead of average. Similar to last year, the nesting habitat was largely snow free by mid-April and all but the largest ponds were ice-free.

The 2006 spring population estimate for SJBPCanada Geese was 160,430, which is the highest since the survey was initiated in 1990. The number of breeding pairs was also the highest ever recorded. All the numbers are relatively high, the surveyors believe that to be the result of excellent weather conditions and good timing of the survey.

Assessments of nesting effort and hatching success indicated that, if the good conditions persist, 2006 should be an excellent production year for SJBPCanada Geese.

Mississippi Valley Canada Geese (*Walton and Hughes 2006b*)

The 2006 survey was flown under a variety of poor to excellent weather conditions between 17 and 22 May. The survey timing was good, and all lines were completed before eggs began to hatch.

Spring conditions on the breeding grounds were very early again in 2006, with snow melt occurring a full month earlier than usual, as it did last year. The spring breeding population estimate was 384,353, which was the highest recorded since 1999 and above the 1989–2006 average, a 26% decline from 2004. The total population estimate for 2006 was 704,954, again, above average. Moulting-migrants did not begin arriving until after the completion of the survey.

Eastern Prairie Canada Geese (*Raedeke, Wollenberg and Lubinski, 2006*)

In 2006 the EPP breeding phenology was early throughout the range. Mild conditions in April combined with low snow fall meant that melt occurred quickly, and conditions were drier than usual.

The 2006 EPP estimate of $185,400 \pm 30,400$ geese was lower than the 2005 estimate. The number of geese observed in pairs declined from 99 100 in 2005 to 73,800 this year. Geese observed as singles ($61,000 \pm 9\,500$) was unchanged from 2005. The estimate of pairs plus singles ($134,800 \pm 18,700$), the basis for EPP harvest management, was similar to levels in 2005, and near the objective of 145,000. The estimate of $50,600 \pm 25\,900$ geese in groups was lower than in 2005 and partially reflects the absence of moult migrant geese during the survey period.

The 2006 singles and pairs estimate is near the 2000 EPP Plan objective of 145 000.

North Atlantic Canada Geese (*Gilliland, pers. comm.*)

The NAP breeding population is surveyed as part of the Eastern Waterfowl Survey, as described in the earlier section titled "Eastern Canada" on page 8 of this report. The Canadian helicopter survey crew reported that while the density of indicated pairs was relatively low between 2000 and 2005, however, preliminary results show clutch sizes were high 2005 and 2006, and numbers of breeding geese increased in 2006.

Atlantic Canada Geese (*Harvey, Rodrigue, Bordage, Cotter, pers. comm.*)

The fourteenth consecutive annual survey of Canada Geese in northern Quebec was conducted June 13 – 18, 2006. The survey covered the three regions shown previously to include the highest densities of nesting geese (interior Ungava, coastal Ungava Bay and Hudson Bay, and the tundra-forest transition zone south of the peninsula). A fourth region in the boreal forest at the latitude of James Bay was last included in this survey in 1996, but the area was covered as part of the eastern Canada transect survey by the USFWS beginning in 2000.

Harvey and Rodrigue reported that spring temperatures in 2006 were extremely mild and breeding areas were largely snow-free by early May. Water levels were low throughout the survey area, probably reflecting the early snowmelt.

The estimated number of breeding pairs was

160,020 (SE = 16,419) in 2006 compared to 162,395 (SE = 12,622) in 2005. The timing of the survey was somewhat late as geese with broods were observed on the last day of the survey. The proportion of indicated pairs observed as single geese (61%) was the highest recorded in the 14 years of the survey, indicating an excellent nesting effort. This finding is consistent with the large clutch sizes and high nest densities found on plots searched by helicopter crews.

The total population estimate (breeding pairs and grouped birds) was 1,135,493 birds (SE = 121,282) in 2006 compared to 1,114,755 birds (SE = 90,609) in 2005. The total population estimate may contain large numbers of molt migrant geese and should be interpreted cautiously.

In 1996 a recruitment study was initiated for Atlantic Population Canada Geese nesting on the Ungava Peninsula (Nunavik) in northern Québec. In 2006 six sites located in the coastal lowlands along Ungava Bay were ground searched for nests between 6 and 8 June.

Snow melt was early to average in 2006, and by the time of the survey most nests were in mid-incubation; the mean nest initiation date (average of all six sites) in 2006 was 21 May, which is 3 days earlier than last year and 5 days earlier than the long-term average (1997-2006). The total number of nests found and the mean clutch size for all 6 sites were 126 and 4.03, respectively. Clutch size was slightly higher than the long-term average of 3.97. Nest density in 2006 was also higher than the long-term average, with 34.1 nests/km² in 2006 compared to the mean of 32.0. At the time of the survey, 91 of the 126 nests (i.e., 72%) were still active. In conclusion, productivity of AP Canada Geese on the Ungava Peninsula should be good in 2006.

In the boreal forest, where AP Canada Geese are counted as part of the helicopter component of the Eastern Waterfowl Survey, the 2006 population was slightly below that of last year (Bordage, pers. comm.). This decline is the third one in a row since 2003. However, as a general rule, 1999-2006 estimates clearly remain above 1990-1998 estimates. The temperature was warm and spring thaw was early in 2006 resulting in nest initiation apparently one or two weeks earlier than usual. The region covered by the eastern boreal forest survey is at the southern limit of the nesting range of AP Canada Geese.

Black Duck Harvest Strategy

Progress on the development of an international Black Duck harvest strategy that uses the principles of Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) has been published in previous issues of the CWS Migratory

Birds Regulatory Reports. In fall 2004, the USFWS and the Canadian Wildlife Service agreed to work towards finalizing an adaptive harvest management approach for determining appropriate levels of harvest for Black Ducks in Canada and the U.S. This approach will be based on breeding ground survey information. Initially, models were based on wintering ground surveys, so some technical adjustments need to be made before the models based on breeding ground information can be used. We are now updating these models with the breeding pair information and expect to make significant progress towards implementation of an AHM approach for Black Ducks in the coming year.

The Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group will keep the appropriate regulatory consultation bodies in Canada and United States informed of progress as we move toward implementation of adaptive harvest management for Black Ducks. These bodies will also be informed if alternative strategic frameworks for Black Duck hunting regulations come under consideration.

More details on the adaptive management study can be found on the following Web site:

<http://coopunit.forestry.uga.edu/blackduck/>

Management of Overabundant Snow Geese

Issue

The rapid growth of most Snow Goose populations is of great concern. Assessments of the environmental effects of the rapidly growing populations of Mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese and of Greater Snow Geese were completed by working groups of Canadian and American scientists. Their analyses are contained in the comprehensive reports entitled "*Arctic Ecosystems in Peril – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*" (Batt 1997) and "*The Greater Snow Goose – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*" (Batt 1998). The working groups concluded that the primary causes of the increase of Snow Goose populations were human induced. Improved nutrition from agricultural practices and safety in refuges has resulted in increased survival and reproductive rates of Snow Geese. These populations have become so large that they are affecting the vegetation communities on which they and other species rely at staging areas and on the breeding grounds. Grazing and grubbing by geese not only permanently removes vegetation, but also changes soil salinity, nitrogen dynamics and moisture levels. The result is the alteration or elimination of the plant communities, which in all likelihood will not be restored. Although

the Arctic is vast, the areas that support breeding geese and other companion species are limited in extent and some areas are likely to become inhospitable for decades. Increasing crop damage is also an important consequence of the growing Snow Goose populations.

Regulation

Several management actions are being undertaken concurrently to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce population size to a level consistent with the carrying capacity of the habitat. One action involves attempts to increase the mortality rate of Snow Geese by two to three times the rate achieved prior to the introduction of habitat conservation measures. Beginning in 1999 an amendment to the Migratory Birds Regulations created special conservation measures during which hunters were encouraged to take overabundant species for conservation reasons and, in some cases and subject to specific controls, to use special methods and equipment such as electronic calls and bait. The 1999 and 2000 regulations applied in selected areas of Québec and Manitoba. Beginning in spring 2001, special conservation measures were also implemented in Saskatchewan and Nunavut. The dates and locations where special conservation measures were implemented were determined through consultation with the provincial governments, other organizations and local communities.

Evaluation

Evaluation plans are being implemented to track progress toward the goals of reduced population growth and, ultimately, recovery by plant communities.

For Lesser Snow Geese, the original objectives for increased harvest were aimed at increasing continental harvest to approximately 0.8 to 1.2 million birds annually (Rockwell et al. 1997). These projections were later challenged as being too conservative, and annual harvest requirements of 1.4 to 3.4 million birds were projected using updated information (Cooke et al. 2000; Rockwell and Ankney 2000). Continental harvests of mid-continent light geese, which includes approximately 100,000 Ross's geese per year, declined from approximately 1 million birds in 1999 to about 700,000 birds in 2004 (USFWS and CWS, unpublished data), and have not met the objectives in any year. Photographic and ground-based surveys of some of the nesting colonies of lesser snow geese suggest that the population has increased since 1997, and survival rates of adult snow geese remain high. Lesser Snow Geese

remain extremely abundant, and continue to have negative effects on arctic habitats.

In the case of Greater Snow Geese, the population objective adopted by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan was 500,000 birds, down from the nearly 1.0 million birds present in 1999. A recent evaluation demonstrated that special measures (of which the spring season was key) have been successful in reducing the annual survival rate for adults from about 83% to about 72.5%. This is reflected in the spring counts, which show the population to have stabilized at between 800,000 and 1,000,000 birds, remaining well above the goal. Moreover, models show that without a spring harvest, the population would quickly begin to grow again, because of environmental conditions such as changes in climate that favor good breeding conditions in the Arctic as well as improved feeding conditions (cornfields) on wintering and staging grounds. At the same time, it appears that the harvest in Canada has been maximized. CWS is working with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service and States to increase the harvest of Greater Snow Geese on the wintering grounds, but we also need to implement measures that could increase Canada's harvest further, or at least help to maintain it at the current level. A new action plan will be launched soon for Quebec.

Proposal for 2007-08

For the reasons outlined above, it is proposed to stabilize the dates for spring hunting of Mid-continent Lesser Geese over a 4-year period from 2007/08 to 2010/11. This applies to the regulations in place in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nunavut. The proposed time period corresponds to the completion of an evaluation of special measures to-date for Lesser Snow Geese.

There are several advantages to this approach: (1) it facilitates participation and advance planning by hunters and outfitters, (2) it allows advance advertisement of spring seasons by all levels of government, and (3) it is administratively more efficient. As described above, all of this can be accomplished with no risk to the population, and the status of the populations would continue to be updated annually through the CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports series.

Stabilized regulations are not being proposed for Québec. This is because more flexibility is needed for the management of Greater Snow Geese, where it is important to explore the effects of regional differences, aiming to maximize the harvest while also allowing for all the other socio-economic benefits associated with ecotourism, such as the goose festivals. This goal is also recommended by the recent scientific evaluation report conducted by

various experts under the Arctic Goose Joint Venture.

Specific proposals regarding special conservation measures in 2007-08 will be presented for discussion in the November 2006 Report on the Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada, and for a period of formal public consultation in the Canada Gazette.

Hunting Regulations for the 2006-2007 Season

The regulations in effect for 2006/2007 are shown in Appendix A. The amendments were approved by the Governor in Council on June 15, 2006.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Inland Waterfowl

Hunter participation in Newfoundland and Labrador has declined, and there has been an associated decline in the inland duck harvest from about 67,000 ducks in 1990 to about 33,500 ducks in 2004. In 2006-2007 the inland waterfowl season will be extended to the last Saturday of December for all ducks (except Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, eiders and scoters), geese and snipe, in all zones on the island of Newfoundland. This change will afford more hunting opportunity, especially for mergansers, with only a slight increase (<2,000 ducks) in the harvest of Black Ducks, Common Goldeneye, Ring-necked Ducks and mergansers.

Harvest and population trends will be monitored through the CWS National Harvest Survey and the Eastern Waterfowl Breeding Ground Survey, respectively, to ensure any increases in harvest are sustainable.

Sea Ducks

Harvest restrictions were first introduced in 1997 to address a decline of northern Common Eiders over-wintering in Newfoundland, and to protect the relatively small number of American Eiders that breed in insular Newfoundland. Since then, significant resources have been directed towards assessing the status of Eider ducks in the north-west Atlantic. Results suggest that the population of northern Common Eider that over-winters in eastern North America is stable to increasing, and more abundant than previous assessments suggested. American Common Eiders that breed along the north coast of Newfoundland have shown strong growth,

while numbers breeding along the north-east and south coasts of Newfoundland remain small.

In 2004, we proposed that the February bag restriction on eiders implemented in 1997 be removed and the inclusive daily bag and possession limit of 6 and 12 sea ducks respectively (eiders, Long-tailed Ducks and scoters) be reinstated. Demographic models had suggested that increased harvest level expected from this change would not negatively impact populations. However, due to the heavy sea ice conditions that prevailed in winter 2005, and high mortality of eiders due to illegal discharge of oil, the proposal was withdrawn until the status of eiders wintering in Newfoundland could be reassessed.

In February 2006, the Canadian Wildlife Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service surveyed wintering eiders in eastern North America. Based on the results of the survey, populations appear to be stable, thus, in the 2006-2007 season, the bag limit restrictions implemented in 1997 are removed and the daily bag limit of 6, and possession limit of 12 sea ducks (eiders, Long-tailed Ducks and scoters) are reinstated. The season will continue to be closed at the end of February.

Harvest will be monitored through the CWS National Harvest Survey. The number of wintering eiders will be monitored at regular intervals and monitoring of local breeding numbers will continue.

Prince Edward Island

There are no changes to the hunting regulations in 2006-2007. Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held on 16 September, 2006.

Nova Scotia

There are no changes to the hunting regulations in 2006-2007. Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held on 23 September, 2006.

New Brunswick

There are no changes to the hunting regulations in 2006-2007. Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held on 16 September, 2006.

Quebec

Canada goose

The early Canada Goose season in Districts C, D and E is modified for 2006-2007. Hunting is permitted, on farmlands only, starting September 1, and running until the opening of the general waterfowl hunting season, which occurs on the third Saturday of September. In order to respect the 107 hunting days limit set by the law, the hunting season will end on December 16.

Waterfowler Heritage Day

For several years, the Magdalene Islands Waterfowlers Association has been unhappy with this event. The association stresses that waterfowl hunting is the only type of hunting practiced on the islands. Given their isolation, the association believes that Waterfowler Heritage Day causes the early departure of birds and provokes conflict for hunting areas between hunters and the participating youths. CWS would like to find an acceptable way to continue the event in the Magdalene Islands, and invites other interested parties to submit ideas. The issue will be re-visited in the fall of 2006.

Ontario

Canada Goose

Regulations in Ontario seek to maintain a high level of harvest of the rapidly expanding temperate-breeding population of Canada Geese while limiting the harvest of northern-breeding populations, in particular the Southern James Bay Population (SJBPP) whose numbers are presently at low but stable levels.

In the case of temperate-breeding Canada Geese, harvest has been increased through the implementation of special seasons with higher bag limits before and after the regular waterfowl hunting season. The regulations are re-evaluated and refined regularly to meet the above mentioned objectives.

Norfolk County

Norfolk County land managers and the municipal council have expressed concern about the increasing population of temperate-breeding Canada geese in their jurisdiction. The township of South Walsingham in Norfolk County has more restrictive hunting regulations for Canada geese than most other areas in southern Ontario. In particular, there

are currently no special seasons for Canada geese in September or February. These exceptions were created due to a high level of non-hunting recreational activity in the Long Point area in September and a concern by some hunters in South Walsingham that significant numbers of returning locally breeding geese may be shot in February, just before the breeding season, thus reducing hunting potential in the fall. However, despite the fact that virtually all other areas have had special February seasons for several years, the temperate-breeding Canada goose population continues to grow throughout southern Ontario.

In 2006-2007, the area with no special September season is limited to that portion of South Walsingham Township lying south of County Road 42, and a late special season is added in South Walsingham Township from February 21 to 28 with daily bag and possession limits of 8 and 24 respectively.

Wildlife Management Unit 94

Restrictive regulations to protect Southern James Bay Population Canada geese have been in place in WMU 94 since 1991. The regulations were made even more restrictive beginning in 1994, and then relaxed somewhat from 2002-2005, all with little apparent effect on the size of the SJB. Among other restrictions, there has been no open season for Canada geese in October since 1994.

The surrounding WMUs (92 and 93) have full 107-day hunting seasons with more liberal daily bag and possession limits. Seasons in these WMUs include early and late special Canada Goose seasons and a regular season from late September to early January. The long-term goal of CWS is to restore a full regular hunting season in WMU 94 in order to provide equal hunting opportunity and to limit growth of the temperate-breeding Canada goose population in that area. However, with no recent harvest or band recovery data for October in WMU 94, it is impossible to accurately estimate the impact of restoring hunting days. Therefore, for 2006-2007 there will be an experimental shift of hunting days from November to late September and October in order to obtain current harvest data for that period. The bag and possession limits remain unchanged.

Thus, in 2006-2007 a split season for Wildlife Management Unit 94 will be implemented as follows:

- 1) The regular Canada goose season in Wildlife Management Unit 94 will first open on September 23 and close on October 21 (25 days) with a daily bag/possession limit of 2/4.
- 2) The regular Canada goose season in Wildlife Management Unit 94 will re-open on November 29 and close on January 4 (32 days) with a daily bag/possession limit of 2/4.

Sunday Hunting in Southern District

In 2005, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources sought approval from municipalities to re-institute Sunday gun-hunting in that part of Ontario south of the French and Mattawa rivers. Since 1998, Sunday hunting of migratory birds in some areas of the Southern District already closed for provincial species was prohibited by Federal regulations in order to use compensatory days for those Sundays to apply to special hunting seasons for Canada Geese whose numbers, and the associated damage and nuisance issues, have been increasing exponentially. Support for re-instituting Sunday hunting was obtained from 68 new municipalities (or about 33% of the municipalities) in that region. Given this level of support and the positive results of the Provincial public consultation process, the OMNR has decided to proceed with implementation. However, because the distribution of municipalities approving Sunday hunting is somewhat scattered, the CWS does not consider that a blanket authorization of Sunday hunting throughout the Southern District would be desirable. Losing the use of these compensatory days in areas that still would not allow Sunday hunting under Provincial legislation would lead to a net decrease in opportunities for Canada Goose hunting.

Although less than half of the overall number of municipalities in southern Ontario approved Sunday hunting, in eastern Ontario (WMU 60 to 72) the majority of municipalities did give their approval. By allowing Sunday hunting in these WMUs, it is expected that the increased harvest of Canada geese on Sundays during the regular season would more than compensate for the compensatory days lost in those municipalities that still do not allow Sunday hunting. Most of this area presently has the same hunting regulation regime for Canada Geese, and it is proposed that all municipalities that presently allow Sunday hunting are included.

In 2006-2007:

- 1) Sunday hunting for migratory birds is no longer prohibited under Federal regulations in Provincial Wildlife Management Units 60 to 72. The Federal prohibition on Sunday hunting of migratory birds would remain in effect in areas further to the west (WMU 73 to 95). In order to accommodate the extra days of hunting during the regular season, late special seasons for Canada geese are discontinued in eastern Ontario and the length of the regular hunting season adjusted so as not to exceed the maximum number of days allowed.
- 2) To harmonize regulations in all areas that will have Sunday hunting as of the 2006-2007 season, the early September goose season in WMU 72 is adjusted to be the same as that in WMU 60 to 71.

Manitoba

Canada Goose (Eastern Prairie Population)

The Eastern Prairie Population benefited from an early nesting season and increased production in 2005, with the result that the population is close to the objective established by the International Management Plan for EPP geese. This positive change in the status of the EPP population enables Manitoba to reintroduce the traditional bag limit for non-resident alien hunters in 2006. These hunters had been restricted in 2005 due to requirements prescribed by the EPP Management Plan of the Mississippi Flyway following the 2004 "bust" in production of EPP Canada geese in the Hudson Bay Lowlands region. Key harvest areas for EPP geese in Manitoba are Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) 25B, 25A and 25, which combined account for >70% of all EPP recoveries in Manitoba. Of this harvest, non-resident non-Canadian (NRNC) hunters account for more than 50% of the harvest of EPP geese in the Interlake region. GHA 25B is allocated a lower bag limit because of the significance of the area to staging EPP geese and the consequent attraction for non-resident non-Canadian hunters.

In 2006-2007, the following regulation applies:

- 1) For Non Resident of Canada (NRNC)
 - a) Bag limit of 5 CAGO/day in GHAs 25 & 25A, with 15 in possession.
 - b) Bag limit of 4 CAGO/day in GHA 25B, and 12 in possession.

Saskatchewan

Greater White-fronted Goose

Mid-continent white-fronted geese are managed through a multi-flyway (Central, Mississippi and Pacific) management plan, revised in 2005. This management plan constitutes an agreement among the states, provinces and territories where these geese occur, and includes sustainable population objectives and thresholds that trigger prescriptive changes in harvest regulations.

The current population objective is 650,000 birds (range 500,000 - 800,000) based on a three-year running average from the annual fall survey in Prairie Canada. When the population is within these parameters, the objective is a base level of harvest (harvest similar to that from 1990-96). When the three-year average exceeds 800,000, a liberal harvest package is prescribed; if it falls below 500,000 on any one count, a restrictive harvest package is to be implemented, remaining in force until the three-year average exceeds 600,000 birds.

The three-year average has declined steadily since 2000, when the population exceeded one million birds, to 565,100 in 2005. The 2005 count is the lowest since the fall survey began in 1992, and is close to the 500,000 threshold for triggering the most restrictive harvest regulations. All jurisdictions have enjoyed liberal regulations in recent years, even though the population has been within the limits described for base regulations since 2003. As a result, the United States implemented regulations in 2005 designed to reduce harvest.

The majority of the white-fronted geese harvested in Canada are taken in Saskatchewan. In 2006-07 the daily bag limit is reduced for non-residents (from 5 birds to 3) and residents (from 5 birds to 4) of Saskatchewan. The possession limits are also reduced. This regulation differs from that outlined for both Saskatchewan and Alberta in December 2005 where the restrictions were suggested to apply only to non-resident hunters. Subsequent consultations within Saskatchewan led to the extension of restrictions to include resident hunters as well. The amended proposal is more conservative than the original, and is expected to have beneficial conservation results.

Alberta

White-fronted Geese

As described above, declining population trends and survival rates for the Greater White-fronted Goose have led to the need for harvest restrictions beginning in 2006-07. This change complements a similar harvest restriction in the United States that began in 2005. In Alberta, the daily bag limit of 5 birds is retained for residents, but is reduced to 3 birds per day for non-residents.

British Columbia

Canvasback, Northern Pintails, Harlequin Ducks and Goldeneyes

The current restrictive regulations on Canvasback, Northern Pintails, Harlequin Ducks and goldeneyes are maintained.

Ducks, Coot, and Snipe Season, Snow and Ross' Geese Season, and Greater White-fronted Goose Season

In Hunting Districts 1, 2 and 6, minor date adjustments are made to the regular hunting season to provide for traditional weekend openings and to accommodate Waterfowler Heritage Day.

Pacific Population of Western Canada Goose

Over the last few years, a number of strategies including the introduction of multiple hunting seasons ("split seasons") have been implemented in the southern part of the province to increase the harvest of resident Canada Geese. In 2006-2007, the opening and closing dates for each split season are retained in Management Districts 1, 3 and 8. In Districts 1 and 2, minor date adjustments are made to the regular or split hunting seasons to provide for traditional weekend openings. In District 6, a minor date adjustment is made to accommodate the new Waterfowler Heritage Days.

Band-tailed Pigeon

The current restrictive regulations on Band-tailed Pigeon are maintained.

Nunavut

No regulatory changes are being implemented in the 2006-2007 season.

Northwest Territories

No regulatory changes are being implemented in the 2006-2007 season.

Yukon Territory

No regulatory changes are being implemented in the 2006-2007 season.

Updates to the Migratory Birds Regulations

Hunting from a vehicle for hunters with physical disabilities

The Field and Stream Association for Manitobans with Disabilities has contacted the Canadian Wildlife Service requesting that an amendment to the Migratory Birds Regulations be considered to allow the use of a vehicle while hunting migratory birds. The association reported that the provincial hunting regulations in Manitoba had been modified to allow a permanently disabled hunter to discharge a firearm from a stationary vehicle while hunting for big game.

Enquiring about other provincial approaches, CWS found that the question of hunting by persons

with disabilities is a complex situation that is being handled differently in different provincial jurisdictions.

In some instances the discharge of a firearm from a vehicle is considered to be strictly a safety issue and it has therefore been prohibited for all persons. In many cases, however, provincial authorities provide an exception either through administrative procedures and/or through regulations. In those instances, the province has usually developed an approach to identify who is eligible.

Preliminary enquiries suggest that a change could be made to the Migratory Birds Regulations accommodating persons with disabilities that are otherwise unable to hunt migratory birds due to the prohibition against hunting from a vehicle. CWS is concerned that measures for the retrieval of game birds be accounted for.

CWS is in the process of drafting proposed regulations that would allow persons with disabilities that are prevented from hunting migratory birds due to the prohibition against hunting from a vehicle to hunt from a stationary vehicle after provincial safety requirements are followed. This exception would not include a relaxation of any other provisions such as section 16 of the Migratory Birds Regulations regarding the requirement to retrieve the game birds shot.

New prohibition regarding wastage of migratory birds

The Migratory Birds Regulations have several provisions to ensure sustainable use of migratory game birds. Some provisions deal directly with the setting of bag and possession limits and season opening dates, other provisions address hunting methods and equipments, the obligation of retrieving birds, and more. All these tools contribute to the maintenance and sustainable use of migratory bird populations. The regulations however do not have a provision that explicitly prohibits the wastage of migratory game birds.

The absence of a provision prohibiting wastage has been noted by several interest groups including aboriginal hunters. It is clear that such a prohibition falls within the spirit of the Migratory Birds Convention, where the values associated with migratory birds are emphasized in its preamble: "Committed to the long-term conservation of shared species of migratory birds for their nutritional, social, cultural, spiritual, ecological, economic, and aesthetic values....".

Several provincial regulations addressing the conservation of wildlife have specific provisions that prohibit wastage. These regulations do not always cover migratory birds and thus, CWS is considering the development of an explicit regulatory

provision that would prohibit wastage of migratory birds.

Addition of a new non toxic shot

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, is considering a proposal to amend the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (MBR) and the *Wildlife Area Regulations* (WAR) to (i) update the definition of non-toxic shot to include tungsten-iron-nickel-copper shot as an approved non-toxic shot alternative, (ii) make minor adjustments to the existing definitions of tungsten-nickel-iron and tungsten-bronze-iron shots, and (iii) ensure the definition is consistent in all the Department of the Environment's wildlife regulations.

All available evidence indicates that the new shot type is not toxic to migratory game birds or their environments. In addition, the revised definitions of tungsten-nickel-iron and tungsten-bronze-iron, would continue to ensure non-toxicity while at the same time permitting the broadest range possible of alternative formulations. These proposed amendments would allow additional options for manufacturers and hunters.

In the MBR, the definition of "non-toxic shot" includes: bismuth shot, steel shot, tin shot, tungsten-bronze-iron shot, tungsten-iron shot, tungsten-iron-nickel-copper shot, tungsten-matrix shot, tungsten-nickel-iron shot and tungsten-polymer shot. To this list it is proposed to add tungsten-iron-nickel-copper shot, consisting of, by weight:

- a) 40-76 per cent tungsten,
- b) 10-37 per cent iron,
- c) 9-16 per cent copper,
- d) 5-7 per cent nickel and
- e) not more than 1 per cent lead, or zinc.

It is also proposed to amend the definition of "tungsten-nickel-iron", as follows:

- (a) up to 90% tungsten (formerly was "at least 50% tungsten"),
- (b) up to 90% iron (formerly was "at least 15%")
- (c) not more than 40% nickel, (formerly was "35%") and
- d) not more than 1% of any other element;

Finally, the definition of "tungsten-bronze-iron" would be amended as follows:

- (a) up to 90 % tungsten (formerly was "at least 50% tungsten")
- (b) up to 90% iron (formerly was "at least 0.5% iron")
- (c) up to 90% tin (formerly was "at least 3%")
- d) not more than 45% copper

- (e) not more than 1% of any other element;

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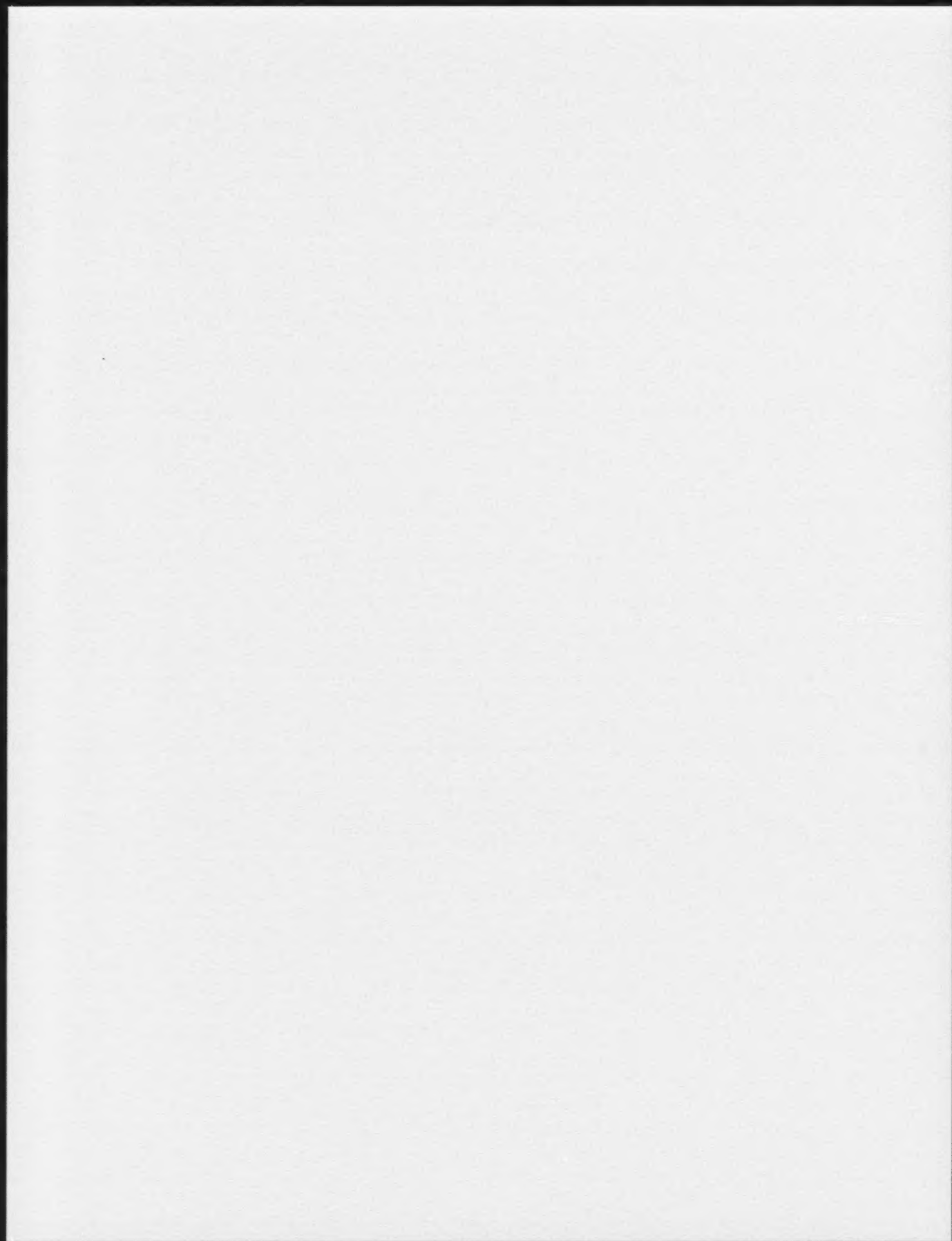
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Appendix A.

2005-2006 Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations Summaries by Province and Territory

are also available on the CWS national Web site at:

http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/reg/index_e.cfm



Environment
Canada
Canadian Wildlife
Service

Environnement
Canada
Service canadien
de la faune

Newfoundland and Labrador

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1201
Lewisporte, Newfoundland A0G 3A0
Tel.: (709) 535-0601
Fax: (709) 535-2743
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions. The season length implemented in 1998 for eiders, Long-tailed Ducks (Oldsquaw or hounds), scoters, and mergansers remains in effect. Note that in some winters, such as experienced in early 2005, heavy ice conditions make sea ducks very vulnerable to high harvest. Should these conditions reoccur in 2007, the Canadian Wildlife Service may decide to implement partial closures in affected zones. In this case, there will be announcements in local newspapers and on radio.

Reminder: It is illegal to hunt migratory birds, including sea ducks, from a power boat unless the motor is not in operation and all forward progress of the boat has ceased. This regulation does not apply to persons hunting murres (turrs).

Attention murre (turr) hunters: In the 2006-07 season, **all** hunters must purchase and be in possession of a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Habitat Conservation Stamp while hunting murres (turrs). Season length and bag limits for hunting murres remain in effect. The non-toxic shot regulation described below does not apply to murres/turrs.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, murres (turrs), and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service office, your local RCMP detachment, or Crime Stoppers (1-800-363-8477).

OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)

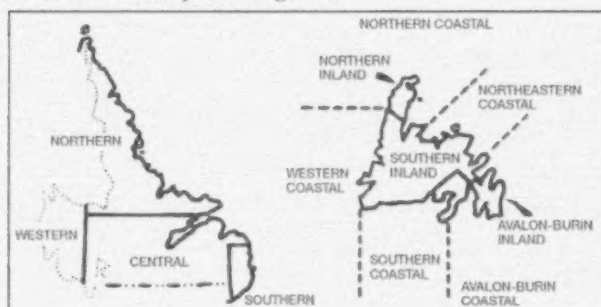
Area	Ducks, including mergansers (other than Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters), geese, and snipe	Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters
All Coastal Zones	Third Saturday of September to last Saturday of December	Fourth Saturday of November to the last day of February
All Inland Zones	Third Saturday of September to last Saturday of December	No open season

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

Watch for this loon on
blue signs marking
National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Waterfowl and Snipe Hunting Zones



"Coastal" refers to that portion of the coast lying within 100 metres of the mean ordinary high-water mark, including the coastal portions of offshore islands and the adjacent marine coastal waters.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers	Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6 (a)	6	6	5	10
Possession	12 (b)	12	12	10	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks.

(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

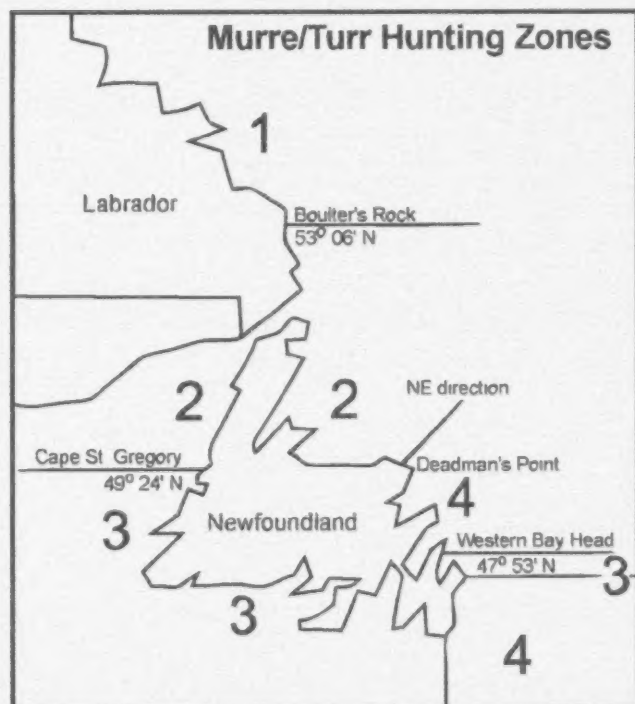
OPEN SEASONS IN LABRADOR (No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks** and eiders), geese, and snipe	Eiders
Northern Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to last Saturday in December	Last Saturday in September to second Saturday in January
Western Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to last Saturday in December	No open season
Southern Labrador Zone	Second Saturday in September to last Saturday in December	Fourth Saturday in November to last day of February
Central Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to last Saturday in December	Last Saturday in October to last Saturday in November and first Saturday in January to last day of February

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN LABRADOR

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers, scoters, and eiders	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6	6	5	10
Possession	12	12	10	20

** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.



OPEN SEASONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Area	Murres
Zone No. 1	September 1 to December 16
Zone No. 2	October 7 to January 20
Zone No. 3	November 24 to March 10
Zone No. 4	November 3 to January 10 February 2 to March 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Limits	Murres
Daily Bags	20
Possession	40

Canada

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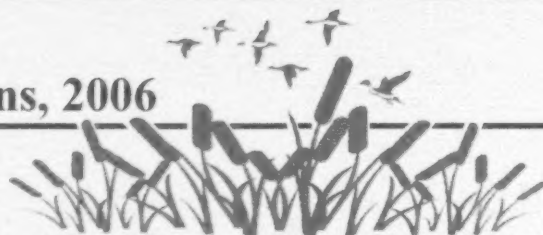
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Prince Edward Island

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

Summary



Watch for this loon on
blue signs marking
National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: (506) 364-5032
Fax: (506) 364-5062
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html**

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with Prince Edward Island Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-566-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), snipe, and geese	Woodcock
Throughout the Province of Prince Edward Island	September 16	First Monday of October to second Saturday of December	Last Monday in September to second Saturday in December

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be Mallards, Mallard-American Black Duck hybrids, or American Black Ducks.

(b) Not more than eight may be Mallards, Mallard-American Black Duck hybrids, or American Black Ducks.

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CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)





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Nova Scotia

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

Summary



Watch for this loon on
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The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
5th Floor, Queen's Square
45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 2N6
Tel.: (902) 426-1188
Fax: (902) 426-6434
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html**

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is prohibited. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the CWS office, your local RCMP detachment, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-422-8477.

OPEN SEASONS IN NOVA SCOTIA (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Additional seasons for Common and Red-breasted mergansers	Additional seasons for Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters in coastal waters only	Additional seasons for scaup, goldeneyes, and Buffleheads	Geese	Woodcock and snipe
Zone No. 1*	Sept. 23	Oct. 2 to Dec. 30	No additional season	No additional season	No additional season	Oct. 2 to Dec. 30	Oct. 2 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2*	Sept. 23	Oct. 9 to Dec. 30	Oct. 2 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 6 (in coastal waters only)	Oct. 2 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 6	Jan. 1 to Jan. 6	Oct. 9 to Jan. 15	Oct. 2 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 3*	Sept. 23	Oct. 9 to Dec. 30	Jan. 1 to Jan. 6	No additional season	Jan. 1 to Jan. 6	Oct. 9 to Jan. 15	Oct. 2 to Nov. 30

* "Zone No. 1" means the counties of Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, and Annapolis.

"Zone No. 2" means the counties of Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg, Halifax, Guysborough, Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness, and Richmond, except the area described under Zone 3.

"Zone No. 3" means Bras d'Or Lake and all waters draining into Bras d'Or Lake including waters on the lake side of the highway bridge on Great Bras d'Or at Seal Islands (Highway No. 105), at St. Peters on St. Peters Inlet (Highway No. 4), and at Bras d'Or on St. Andrews Channel (Highway No. 105).

** Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	5	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks.

(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

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New Brunswick

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

Summary



Watch for this loon on
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The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service**
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: (506) 364-5032
Fax: (506) 364-5062
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as the 1:00 P.M. closure for Tabusintac and Tracadie lagoons, the requirement to use a dog while hunting woodcock during September, etc.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
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- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fi-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

Hunting Zones

Zone No.1

Saint John County south of No. 1 Highway and west of Saint John Harbour, that part of Charlotte County lying south of No. 1 Highway, and the Grand Manan Islands and Campobello Island, except the following area, which is closed to hunting: the area in the Bay of Fundy known as The Wolves, including the surrounding waters.

Zone No. 2

The remainder of the Province of New Brunswick, except the following, which are closed to hunting: the estuary of the Tabusintac River, Bathurst Basin and most of Bathurst Harbour (two islands remain open and signs have been posted to indicate their locations), and the Dalhousie shoreline from the eastern tip of Dalhousie Island to the mouth of the Miller Brook and extending one kilometre offshore.

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with New Brunswick Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, and snipe	Additional season for Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders and scoters in coastal waters only	Woodcock
Zone No. 1	September 16	October 16 to January 4	February 1 to February 24	September 15 to November 30
Zone No. 2	September 16	October 2 to December 18	No additional season	September 15 to November 30

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6(c)	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	12(d)	10	16	20

(a) Not more than three may be American Black Ducks.

(b) Not more than six may be American Black Ducks.

(c) Not more than four may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 24; not more than four eiders may be taken daily.

(d) Not more than eight may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 24; not more than eight eiders may be possessed.

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

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Quebec

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

Summary



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and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.*



*In Quebec, these signs also
identify no-hunting zones.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the retrieval of birds, description of hunting districts and non-hunting areas, contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service
1141, route de l'Église
P.O. Box 10100
Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4H5
Tel.: 1 800 463-4311
Fax: (418) 649-6475
www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/faune.html

A provincial hunting permit for small game is required to hunt migratory birds in Quebec. While hunting, it is obligatory for hunters to carry their permits with them. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2006-2007 federal permits.

Non-residents of Canada hunting woodcock have a lower daily bag limit than Canadian hunters.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

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When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/vn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

NOTE

Waterfowler Heritage Day is September 9 for districts B, C, D, and E; September 16 for districts F, G, H, and I; and September 23 for District J. The opening hunting date for ducks is September 16 for districts B, C, D, and E; September 23 for districts F, G, H, and I; and September 30 for District J. The non-hunting area of Beauharnois has been abolished. The opening date for early hunting of Canada Geese and Snow Geese is September 1 in districts C, D, and E.

OPEN SEASONS IN QUEBEC (No open season for Harlequin Ducks or rails)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, woodcock, and snipe WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks (other than eiders, Harlequin Ducks, and Long-tailed Ducks*), geese (other than Canada and Snow geese), and snipe	Canada Geese	Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks*	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock
A	N/A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	No open season	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10
B	Sept. 9	Sept. 16 to Dec. 26	Sept. 16 to Dec. 26	Oct. 1 to Jan. 14(b)	No open season	Sept. 9 to Dec. 22
C, D and E	Sept. 9	Sept. 16 to Dec. 26(c)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 15(a) Sept. 16 to Dec. 16	Sept. 16 to Dec. 26	No open season	Sept. 16 to Dec. 26
F, G, H, and I	Sept. 16(d)	Sept. 23 to Dec. 26(c)	Sept. 6 to Sept. 22(a) Sept. 23 to Dec. 21	Sept. 23 to Dec. 26	Sept. 23 to Dec. 26	Sept. 16 to Dec. 26
J	Sept. 23	Sept. 30 to Dec. 26	Sept. 30 to Dec. 26	Nov. 1 to Feb. 14	No open season	Sept. 30 to Dec. 26

(a) In districts C, D, E, F, G, H, and I, hunting for Canada Geese is allowed only on farmland.

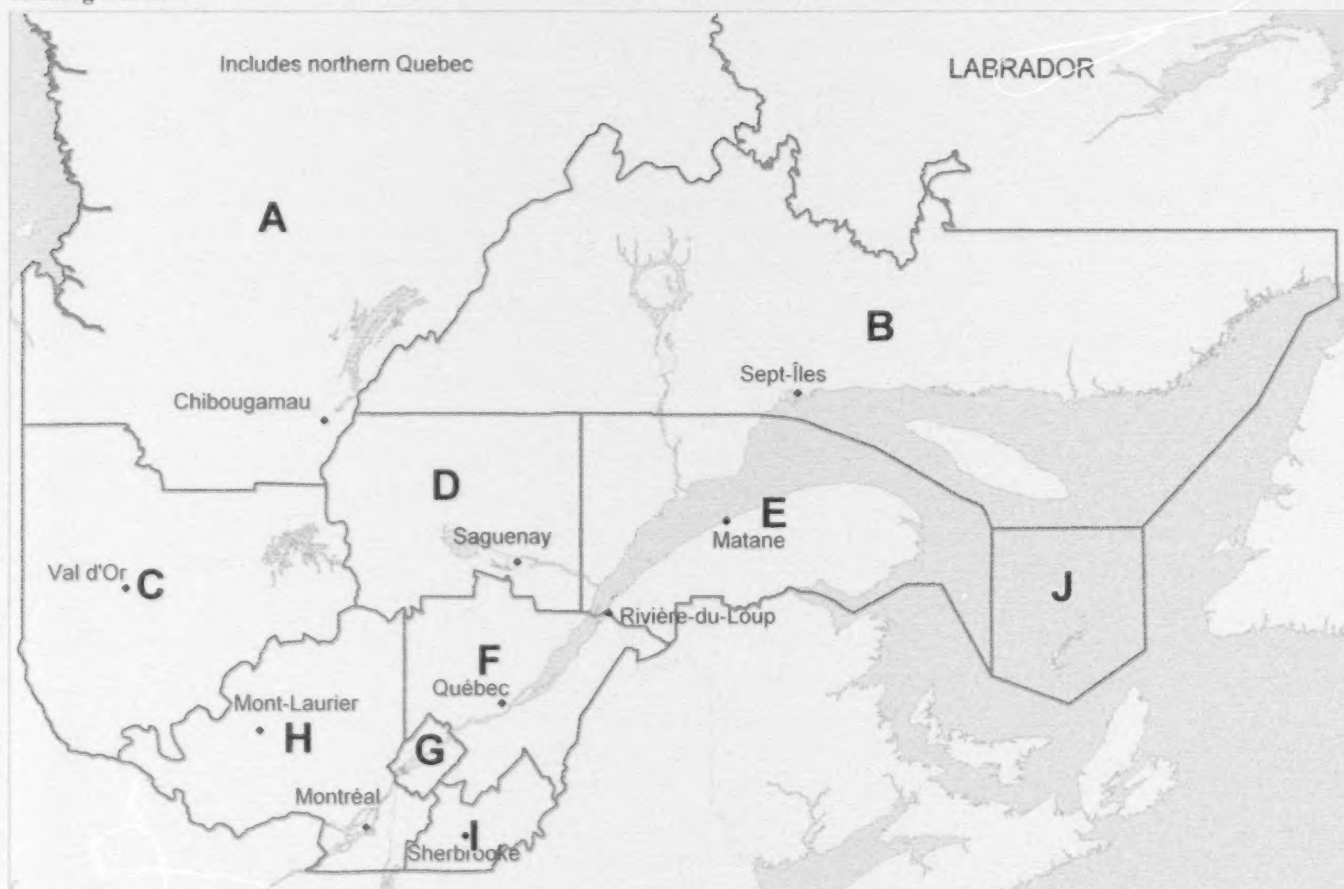
(b) In District B along the North Shore west of the Natashquan River, the hunting seasons for eiders and Long-tailed Ducks are from October 1 to October 24 inclusive and from November 15 to February 5 inclusive.

(c) In District E, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneyes and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 in Provincial Hunting Zone # 21 and 100 metres beyond this zone. In District F, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneyes and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 between Pointe Jureux (Saint-Irénée) and Gros Cap à l'Aigle (Saint-Fidèle) from routes 362 and 138 to 2 kilometres within Provincial Hunting Zone # 21.

(d) In districts F, G, H, and I, hunting for coots and gallinules is allowed during Waterfowler Heritage Day.

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

Hunting Districts



BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN QUEBEC

Limits	Ducks	Geese (other than Snow Geese)	Snow Geese	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)(b)(c)(d)(f)	5(f)	20(f)	4(f)	8(c)(f)	10(f)
Possession	12(a)(b)(c)(d)	10	60	8	16	20

(a) Not more than four American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of eight in districts A, B, C, D, E, F, and J.

(b) Not more than two American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of four in districts G, H, and I. Between November 1 and December 26, not more than four American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of eight in districts G, H, and I (only lying east of Gatineau River).

(c) Not more than two Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of four in districts A, B, C, D, E, and J.

(d) Not more than one Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of two in districts F, G, H, and I.

(e) For non-residents of Canada, not more than four woodcock may be taken daily.

(f) Not more than three birds in total may be taken on Waterfowler Heritage Days. The additional species restrictions described in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) continue to apply within this limit.

The Migratory Birds Regulations also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted **only** during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2006-2007 federal permits.

MEASURES IN QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
District A	May 1 to June 30 and September 1 to December 10	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
District B	September 16 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
Districts C and D	April 1 to May 31(a), September 1 to September 15(a), and September 16 to December 16	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
District E	April 1 to May 31(a), September 1 to September 15(a), and September 16 to December 16	Recorded bird calls(d)(f) and bait or bait crop area(e)
Districts F, G, H, and I	April 1 to May 31(a)(b)(c), September 6 to September 22(a), and September 23 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f) and bait or bait crop area(e)
District J	September 23 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)

(a) Hunting and hunting equipment are allowed only on farmland.

(b) In District F, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route 132 between Forgues Street at Berthier-sur-Mer and the eastern limit of Cap-Saint-Ignace municipality.

(c) In District G, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line located at 1 000 m north of Highway 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Maskinongé River. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the railroad right-of-way located near Route 132 between the Nicolet River in the east and Lacerte Road in the west.

(d) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.

(e) Hunting with bait and hunting in a bait crop area are permitted if the Regional Director of Environmental Conservation of Environment Canada has given consent in writing pursuant to section 23.3 of the Migratory Birds Regulations.

(f) If decoys are used when hunting with recorded Snow Goose calls, the decoys must represent only white phase Snow Geese in adult or juvenile plumage (white or grey).

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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

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Summary



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
P.O. Box 5050, 867 Lakeshore Road
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6
(905) 336-6410
www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife_e.html

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Note that there is now increased availability of Sunday hunting in the Southern District. The onus is on the hunter to determine, for the area where he or she wishes to hunt, that both Sunday gun hunting is permitted (provincial regulations) and Sunday migratory bird hunting is permitted (federal regulations).

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

Note that hunting restrictions have been put in place for the Wolfe Island area to address concerns over the declining use of this area by waterfowl. As a result, hunting will be permitted in the Wolfe Island area only when hunters are on the island, on the shore, in the shoreline marsh, or on a dock within 20 metres of the shore.

Hunting Districts



- 1. Hudson-James Bay District**
Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B, and the portions of Wildlife Management Units 1D, 25, and 26 lying east of longitude 83°45' and north of latitude 51°
- 2. Northern District**
Wildlife Management Unit 1C, those parts of 1D, 25, and 26 lying west of longitude 83°45' and south of latitude 51°, and Wildlife Management Units 2 to 24, 27 to 41, and 45
- 3. Central District**
Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 and 46 to 59
- 4. Southern District**
Wildlife Management Units 60A and 61 to 95

OPEN SEASONS IN ONTARIO (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Common Moorhens, American Coots, Common Snipe, and geese (other than Canada Geese)	Canada Geese*	Woodcock
1. Hudson-James Bay District	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15
2. Northern District	Sept. 10 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15
3. Central District	Sept. 16 to Dec. 20	Sept. 5 to Dec. 20	Sept. 20 to Dec. 20
4. Southern District	Sept. 23 to Dec. 20(f)	Sept. 5 to Sept. 16(a)(f) and Sept. 9 to Sept. 19(b) and Sept. 23 to Dec. 27(b) and Sept. 23 to Jan. 4(c)(f) and Sept. 23 to Oct. 21(d)(f) and Nov. 29 to Jan. 4(d)(f) and Feb. 21 to Feb. 28(e)(f)	Sept. 25 to Dec. 20(f)

(a) In Wildlife Management Units 73 to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding that part of the Township of South Walsingham, south of County Road 42, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 95 inclusive.

(b) In Wildlife Management Units 60A to 72B inclusive.

(c) In Wildlife Management Units 73 to 93 inclusive, and 95.

(d) In Wildlife Management Unit 94.

(e) In Wildlife Management Units 73 to 93 inclusive.

(f) No person shall hunt migratory birds on the following Sundays during the hunting season in Wildlife Management Units 73 to 95 inclusive from September 10 to December 31, and February 25. Sunday exclusions do not apply to falconers who may hunt only ducks on Sundays from September 24 to December 17 inclusive.

* See below for a simplified presentation of Canada Goose Regulations for Southern District.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ONTARIO

Limits	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Geese* (other than Snow Geese) and Brant	Snow Geese	Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), American Coots, Common Snipe, and Common Moorhens	Woodcock
Daily bags	6(a)(b)(c)	5(d)(e)(f)(g)	10	10	8
Possession	12(a)(b)(c)	10(d)(e)(f)(g)	40	20	16

(a) Not more than one American Black Duck may be taken daily and not more than two American Black Ducks may be possessed in Central and Southern districts and not more than two American Black Ducks may be taken daily and not more than four American Black Ducks may be possessed in Hudson-James Bay and Northern districts.

(b) Not more than four Canvasbacks may be taken daily and not more than eight Canvasbacks may be possessed.

(c) Not more than four Redheads may be taken daily and not more than eight Redheads may be possessed.

(d) Not more than three Canada Geese may be taken daily and not more than 10 Canada Geese may be possessed in that portion of Wildlife Management Unit 1D in Hudson-James Bay District, and in Wildlife Management Units 23 to 31 inclusive and 37 to 41 inclusive from September 10 to December 15 inclusive.

(e) Not more than two Canada Geese may be taken daily and not more than four Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Unit 94 from September 23 to October 21 inclusive and from November 29 to January 4 inclusive.

(f) Not more than three Canada Geese may be taken daily and not more than 10 Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86 inclusive and 93 from September 23 to October 31 inclusive.

(g) Three additional Canada Geese may be taken daily and 14 additional Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Units 36 and 45 from September 1 to September 9 inclusive; in Central District from September 5 to September 15 inclusive; in Wildlife Management Units 73 to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding that part of the Township of South Walsingham, south of County Road 42, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 95 inclusive from September 5 to September 16 inclusive; in Wildlife Management Units 60A to 72B inclusive from September 9 to September 19 inclusive; and in Wildlife Management Units 73 to 93 inclusive from February 21 to February 28 inclusive.

* See below for a simplified presentation of Canada Goose Regulations for Southern District.

SUMMARY OF CANADA GOOSE REGULATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ONTARIO

Daily Limit	8	8	3	5	5	5	2	2	8
Possession Limit	24	24	10	10	10	10	4	4	24
Start	5 Sept.	9 Sept.	23 Sept.	1 Nov.	23 Sept.	23 Sept.	23 Sept.	29 Nov.	21 Feb.
Close	16 Sept.	19 Sept.	31 Oct.	4 Jan.	27. Dec.	4 Jan.	21 Oct.	4 Jan.	28 Feb.
WMU									
60A		X			X				
61		X			X				
62		X			X				
63		X			X				
64A		X			X				
64B		X			X				
65		X			X				
66		X			X				
67		X			X				
68		X			X				
69		X			X				
70		X			X				
71		X			X				
72A		X			X				
72B		X			X				
73	X					X			X
74	X					X			X
75	X					X			X
76	X					X			X
77	X					X			X
78	X					X			X
79	X					X			X
80	X					X			X
81	X					X			X
82	X		X	X					X
83	X		X	X					X
84	X		X	X					X
85	X		X	X					X
86	X		X	X					X
87	X					X			X
88	X					X			X
89	X					X			X
90	Except part of South Walsingham					X			X
91	X					X			X
92	X					X			X
93	X		X	X					X
94	X						X	X	
95	X					X			
Season Table Footnotes	a	b	c	c	b	c	d	d	e
Limits Table Footnotes	g	g	f				e	e	g



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Manitoba

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

Summary



Watch for this loon on
blue signs marking
National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
Suite 150
123 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4W2
(204) 983-5263

www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

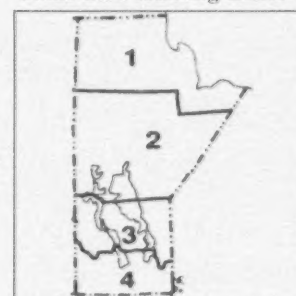
- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

Game Bird Hunting Zones



OPEN SEASONS IN MANITOBA

Area	Ducks and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks, Canada Geese, coots, and snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snow and Ross's geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Zone 1	N/A	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(b)	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(b)
Zone 2	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(a)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)
Zone 3	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 25 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 18 to Nov. 30(b)
Zone 4	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 25 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 18 to Nov. 30(b)

(a) In provincial Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) 6 and 6A only.

(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN MANITOBA

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada and white-fronted geese, and Brant)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	8(c)	20	5(e)	5	8	10
Possession	16(b)	16(d)	80	15(f)	10	16	20

(a) In Zone 4 for Residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

(b) In Zone 4 for Residents, not more than eight may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

(c) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than two may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

(d) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

(e) Except that in provincial Game Hunting Area (GHA) 25B of Zone 4, non-residents may not take more than four Canada Geese daily.

(f) Except that in provincial GHA 25B of Zone 4, non-residents may not possess more than 12 Canada Geese.

NOTE

The open season for hunting of geese by non-residents in Game Bird Hunting Zone 4, and the Provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14, 14A, all that portion of Game Hunting Area 16 south of the north limit of township 33, Game Hunting Areas 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A, and 25 as described in Manitoba Regulation 220/86 as filed on September 25, 1986, includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from the opening date (September 26) to October 15 inclusive, and on and after October 16 geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

The Migratory Birds Regulations also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted **only** during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details.

NOTE

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2006-2007 federal permits.

MEASURES IN MANITOBA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Zone 1	April 1 to May 31 and August 15 to August 31	Recorded bird calls (a)(b)
Zones 2, 3, and 4	April 1 to May 31	Recorded bird calls (a)(b)

(a) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.

(b) If decoys are used when hunting with recorded bird calls, during the April-May and August 15-31 periods only, decoys must represent white or blue phase Snow Geese.

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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

Summary



Watch for this loon on
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National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
115 Perimeter Road
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4
(306) 975-4919

www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

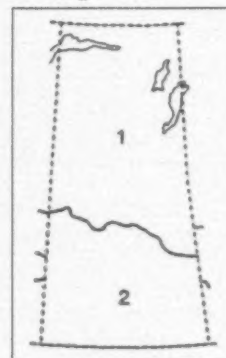
When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, any migratory bird for which there is an open season may also be taken.

NOTE

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2006-2007 federal permits.

Hunting Districts



District No. 1 (North)
Provincial Wildlife
Management Zones 43
and 47 to 76 inclusive.

District No. 2 (South)
Provincial Wildlife
Management Zones
1 to 42 inclusive and 44 to
46 inclusive.

OPEN SEASONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

District	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Geese RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	Sandhill Cranes
No. 1 (North)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
No. 2 (South)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(a)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(b)(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 10 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(c)

(a) Falconry season is open from September 1 to December 16 inclusive.

(b) Except White-fronted Geese; the season for residents of Saskatchewan for White-fronted Geese is from September 10 to December 16 inclusive.

(c) The Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all Sandhill Crane hunting.

(d) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

NOTE

The open season for geese for residents and non-residents of Saskatchewan in District No. 2 (South), and the Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47 to 59 inclusive, and 67 to 69 inclusive of District No. 1 (North) includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from September 1 to October 14, inclusive, and on and after October 15 geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset, except east of 106 degrees west longitude, where, on and after September 1, white geese (Snow and Ross's geese) may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all hunting until September 20.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Limits	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	20	8(c)	5	10	10
Possession	16(b)	60	16(d)	10	20	20

(a) Not more than three may be Northern Pintails.

(b) Not more than six may be Northern Pintails.

(c) For residents of Saskatchewan, not more than four may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Saskatchewan, not more than three may be White-fronted Geese.

(d) For residents of Saskatchewan, not more than eight may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Saskatchewan, not more than six may be White-fronted Geese.

Cranes

Where the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service or the Chief Provincial Game Officer of Saskatchewan is of the opinion that Whooping Cranes may be in the Saskatchewan Sandhill Crane Management Area during the open season for Sandhill Cranes in that area, such officer may prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in that area, and thereafter no person shall hunt or kill Sandhill Cranes in that area in that year.

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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada

4999-98 Ave.

Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3

(780) 951-8891

www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

Hunting Zones



Hunters are advised to pay particular attention to the Alberta Hunting Guide to ensure that they are hunting for the correct species in the correct wildlife management unit during the permitted times and dates. Note that these zone numbers do not correspond to regions as presented in the Guide.

OPEN SEASONS IN ALBERTA

Area	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese)	Coots and snipe	Falconry season for ducks, coots, and snipe
Zones 1(a), 2, 3, 4, and 8*	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
Zones 5, 6, and 7*	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23

(a) Except that Alberta Wildlife Management Unit 841 in Zone 1 has an opening date of September 15.

* "Zone No. 1" means that part of Alberta included in Provincial Wildlife Management Units (PWMUs) 501 to 506, 509 to 512, 514 to 519, 529, 530 to 532, and 841.

"Zone No. 2" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 344, 347, 349, 350 to 360, 520 to 528, 534 to 537, 539, 540, 542, and 544.

"Zone No. 3" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 200, 202 to 204, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, and 500.

"Zone No. 4" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 206, 208, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336 to 340, 342, 346, 348, 429, 507, 508, and 936.

"Zone No. 5" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 151, 160 to 163, 164, and 166.

"Zone No. 6" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 152, 156, 158, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302 to 306, 308, 310, 312, and 314.

"Zone No. 7" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148, and 150.

"Zone No. 8" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 316, 318, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416 to 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436 to 442, 444 to 446.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

Limits	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese)	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	20	8(c)	10	10
Possession	16(b)	60	16(d)	20	20

(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.

(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.

(c) For Canadian residents, not more than five may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than three may be White-fronted Geese.

(d) For Canadian residents, not more than 10 may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than six may be White-fronted Geese.

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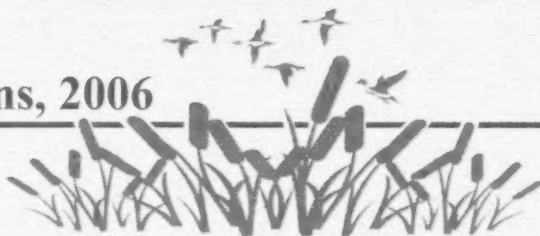
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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

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The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre
R.R. 1, 5421 Robertson Road
Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2
(604) 940-4710

www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/en/wildlife/hunting/index.shtml

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

Hunting Districts



1. Provincial Management Units (PMU) 1-1 to 1-15
2. PMU 2-2 to 2-19
3. PMU 3-12 to 3-20 and 3-26 to 3-44
4. PMU 4-1 to 4-9 and 4-14 to 4-40
5. PMU 5-1 to 5-15
6. PMU 6-1 to 6-30
7. PMU 7-2 to 7-58
8. PMU 8-1 to 8-15 and 8-21 to 8-26

OPEN SEASONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

District	Ducks and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Snow and Ross's geese	Other geese	Brant	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
No. 1	Sept. 9 and 10(b) Sept. 30 and Oct. 1(p)	Oct. 7 to Jan. 19	Oct. 7 to Jan. 19	Oct. 7 to Jan. 19(a) Sept. 15 to Oct. 22(b)(h) Dec. 15 to Jan. 25(b)(h) Feb. 14 to March 10(b)(h)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30	No open season
No. 2	Sept. 2 and 3(j)(r) Sept. 30 and Oct. 1(q)	Oct. 7 to Jan. 19(g)(h) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(j)	Oct. 7 to Jan. 2(d) Feb. 22 to Mar. 10(d)	Oct. 7 to Jan. 19(e) Sept. 9 to Sept. 17(f)(h) Oct. 7 to Nov. 26(f)(h) Dec. 16 to Jan. 1(f)(h) Feb. 11 to Mar. 10(f)(h) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(c)(j)	Mar. 1 to Mar. 10(h)(i)	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(s)	No open season
No. 3	Sept. 2 and 3	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(k) Sept. 10 to Sept. 20(l) Oct. 1 to Dec. 23(l) Mar. 1 to Mar. 10(l)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(t)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
No. 4	Sept. 2 and 3	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	No open season	No open season	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
No. 5	Sept. 9 and 10	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 6	Sept. 1 and 2(m) Sept. 16 and 17(n)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 7	N/A	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 8	Sept. 2 and 3	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25(o) Sept. 20 to Nov. 28(c) Dec. 20 to Jan. 5(c) Feb. 21 to March 10(c)	No open season	No open season	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30

(a) Provincial Management Units 1-3, and 1-7 to 1-15 inclusive, and for Canada Geese only.

(b) Provincial Management Units 1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6 only, and for Canada Geese only.

(c) For Canada Geese only.

(d) Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only.

(e) Provincial Management Units 2-5 to 2-7 inclusive, 2-9, 2-10, and 2-12 to 2-17 inclusive only, and for Canada Geese only.

(f) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, and for Canada Geese only.

(g) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive.

(h) See provincial regulations for local restrictions.

(i) Provincial Management Unit 2-4 only.

(j) Provincial Management Unit 2-11 only.

(k) Provincial Management Units 3-12 to 3-18 inclusive, 3-30 to 3-35, and 3-38 to 3-44 inclusive for White-fronted and Canada geese, and Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, 3-26 to 3-29, 3-36 and 3-37 inclusive for White-fronted Geese only.

(l) Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, and 3-26 to 3-29, 3-36 and 3-37 inclusive and for Canada Geese only.

(m) Provincial Management Units 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 inclusive, and 6-15 to 6-30 inclusive only.

(n) Provincial Management Units 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14 inclusive only.

(o) For White-fronted Geese only.

(p) For ducks, Snow Geese and Ross's Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 1-3, and 1-7 to 1-15 inclusive, for Canada Geese.

(q) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive for ducks and Canada Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only, for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.

(r) For ducks and Canada Geese only.

(s) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-19 inclusive.

(t) Provincial Management Units 3-13 to 3-17 inclusive.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Coots	Snipe	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
Daily bags	8(a)(c)(e)(k)	5(g)(i)	10	10	5	5
Possession	16(b)(d)(f)(l)	10(h)(j)	20	20	10	10

- (a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.
- (b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.
- (c) Not more than four may be Canvasbacks.
- (d) Not more than eight may be Canvasbacks.
- (e) Not more than two may be goldeneyes.
- (f) Not more than four may be goldeneyes.
- (g) Not more than two may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.
- (h) Not more than four may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.
- (i) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of five Canada Geese can be taken daily.
- (j) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of 10 Canada Geese can be in possession daily.
- (k) Not more than two may be Harlequin Ducks.
- (l) Not more than four may be Harlequin Ducks.

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Nunavut

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

Summary



Watch for this loon on
blue signs marking
National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2
(867) 669-4730

www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-ft-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

NOTE

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2006–2007 federal permits.

OPEN SEASONS IN NUNAVUT

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe
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Throughout Nunavut	September 1 to December 10(a)
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(a) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25(c)(g)	8(c)(g)	15(b)(e)	5(a)(b)(e)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit(d)(h)	16(d)(h)	No limit(b)(f)	10(a)(b)(f)	No limit	No limit	20

(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.

(b) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, not more than three Canada Geese may be taken daily, and not more than 10 may be possessed.

(c) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than two American Black Ducks.

(d) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than four American Black Ducks.

(e) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit is 20 Snow Geese, five Canada Geese, and five other geese.

(f) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit is 60 Snow Geese, 10 Canada Geese, and 10 other geese.

(g) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than four American Black Ducks and two Blue-winged Teal.

(h) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than eight American Black Ducks and four Blue-winged Teal.

NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one-half hour before sunrise or later than one-half hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

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Northwest Territories

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

Watch for this loon on
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National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary



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Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2
(867) 669-4730

www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

OPEN SEASONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe
Throughout the Northwest Territories	September 1 to December 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25	8	15	5(a)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit	16	No limit	10(a)	No limit	No limit	20

(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.

NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

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Yukon Territory

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2006

Summary



Watch for this icon on
blue signs marking
National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
91782 Alaska Highway
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5B7
(867) 667-4597**

www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/theme.cfm?lang=e&category=6

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

When hunting and handling birds, Canadians may be exposed to viruses carried by and affecting birds (such as the West Nile or avian influenza viruses). Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following websites, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index_e.html, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html, and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos_e.html. Some relevant information is also available on the Canadian Wildlife Service website: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=FAD35B22.

Hunting Areas

Northern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying north of latitude 66°

Southern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying south of latitude 66°

OPEN SEASONS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Area	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Northern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
Southern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	5(b)	2	0(c)	10
Possession	24(a)	15(b)	4	0(c)	30(d)

(a) Except that in the northern Yukon Territory 17 additional ducks may be taken per day, with no possession limit.

(b) Except that in the northern Yukon Territory 10 additional geese may be taken per day, with no possession limit.

(c) Except that in the northern Yukon Territory 25 rails and coots may be taken per day, with no possession limit.

(d) Except that in the northern Yukon Territory there is no possession limit.

NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

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